



## Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Conducted by Zoom remote participation

### Meeting Minutes

Present: Ann LeRoy, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, Emily Nink, Wendy Richter, David White, Emily Sullivan, Zach Vaillette, Kelly Lynema  
Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, John Pickle, Phil Lasker

1. Review/approve Minutes of March 25, 2021
  - a. Minutes of the March 25 meeting were reviewed and approved by all members present.
2. Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)
  - a. The Committee reviewed a draft Public Participation Plan, drafted by Horsley Witten. The first OSRP Update virtual workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 10 at 7pm.
  - b. The Committee discussed different public engagement strategies, including the Meeting in a Box strategy. Committee members would sign-up to present the OSRP Update at existing Arlington board/committee meetings, or existing non-Town organization meetings using a template presentation that could be adapted to fit the audience.
  - c. The Committee reviewed a contact list of stakeholders (Town boards/committee, recreation groups, friends groups, neighborhood organizations, etc.) and assigned themselves to conduct outreach directly to the stakeholders.
  - d. The Committee discussed conducting more targeted outreach to environmental justice neighborhoods by using door hangers and lawn signs in public spaces. The Committee also discussed direct engagement at parks and open spaces in Town, through the Listening Posts strategy presented by Horsley Witten in the Public Participation Plan.
  - e. The Committee discussed conducting a follow-up survey after the June 10<sup>th</sup> workshop. During the workshop, the Committee agreed that breakout rooms could facilitate specific discussions about open space and recreation topics. Each breakout room would need a facilitator and note taker. Horsley Witten previously stated that they would staff the workshop with enough staff to help facilitate the workshop and breakout rooms. The Committee also agreed that it would be important to have visuals, like maps, available during the workshop.
  - f. The Committee reviewed the goals of the current OSRP. The overall goals of the current plan include: 1) acquisition/protection of open and recreation spaces, 2) preservation/maintenance of open and recreation spaces, 3) coordination between Town departments and other stakeholders, 4) open and recreation space awareness and education, and 5) sustainability, conservation, and climate change considerations for open and recreation spaces. The

Committee agreed that the current goals overlap and are redundant. The Committee agreed that coordination between Town departments needs to continue to be a priority. K. Lynema stated that the OSRP Update can include open space considerations that have become more popular over the pandemic, including place-making, public realm activation and programming, and economic development opportunities through open space and recreation. E. Carr-Jones noted that the public health benefits of open and recreation spaces have become more evident over the pandemic. A. LeRoyer stated that the update should consider changing/emerging recreation and open space trends. A. LeRoyer stated that Arlington needs to balance active and passive recreation. W. Richter stated that the Town's investment in green infrastructure through rain gardens and road diets are open space opportunities. The Committee agreed that new open space and recreation trends include increasing the urban tree canopy to mitigate urban heat island, creating pollinator pathways and corridors, and creating uniform procedures for community groups and Town departments to reserve open spaces and parks.

3. Updates: CPA/CDBG projects

- a. The Committee reviewed the open space and recreation projects endorsed by the CPA Committee to Town Meeting for FY2022 grant awarding. These projects include: renovating the Spy Pond North Beach Ramp with porous pavement material, renovating Spy Pond Park Playground, developing a Town-wide Public Land Management Plan, develop a Minuteman Bikeway plan, renovating Hurd Field, and replacing the Robbins Farm Park slides.
- b. The Res Phase 2 project has contracted SumCo to complete the perimeter, beach, and playground work. There will be no kayak/canoe rentals at the Res during project construction.

4. Other News and Reports

- a. Relocation planning for the VA memorial at Broadway Plaza is on hold.
- b. Mugar/Thorndike Place: The next hearing for the Thorndike Place comprehensive permit is scheduled for 5/13/2021.
- c. Mirak/1165R Mass Ave: The next hearing for the 1165R Mass Ave comprehensive permit is scheduled for 5/18/2021.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

**2021 Meeting Dates** (usually 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month but note exceptions): May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 11, December 9 (due to holidays)

Submitted by  
*Emily Sullivan*